1. WHAT ARE THE SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION?

Prevention planning value:
Provides background on diversity of population and context for assessing potential HIV impact relative to other regions and the nation.

Key components:
- Total population size
- Proportion of the area's total population represented by region
- Race/ethnicity
- Socioeconomic characteristics

Key issues:
For the planning group:
- Socioeconomic data may help identify groups at high risk.
- Census data are the principal source of population information.

QUESTION 1

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Question 1:   WHAT ARE THE SOCIODEMOGRAPHIC CHARACTERISTICS OF THE POPULATION?

1.1   What data are needed to describe the sociodemographic characteristics of the population? The answer to this question should include a description of the racial and ethnic composition of the population and measures of socioeconomic status.   Characterizing the region in this way will provide the context needed to understand the diversity of the population.

Comment:

The HIV epidemic in the United States is a composite of multiple, unevenly distributed epidemics in different regions and among different population groups.   These population groups may comprise persons who practice similar high-risk behavior, such as injecting drugs or having unprotected sex with an infected partner.   Although race and ethnicity are not risk factors for HIV transmission, they are markers for complex underlying social, economic, and cultural factors that affect personal behavior and health.[1]   Low socioeconomic status in particular is associated with morbidity and premature mortality:[2]   unemployment and poverty are correlated with decreased access to health education, preventive services, and medical care, resulting in an increased risk for disease.[1] The social, economic, and cultural context of HIV infection must be considered when designing and implementing prevention programs for diverse populations.

Widely Available Data

Population Data: The U.S. Department of Commerce distributes published and unpublished data for large areas such as census regions, states, metropolitan areas, counties, and cities, and for small areas down to the size of a city block.[3] Population data may be obtained from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Economics and Statistics Administration, Bureau of the Census; state departments of economic security; the Department of Vital Statistics in state and county health departments; and many university and public libraries.

Comment:

In addition to providing a regional snapshot of the entire population, census data are the principal source of denominator data for calculating AIDS incidence rates.   Census data also may be useful for the HIV prevention needs assessment.

❐ Population of region

Example:

The Central Arizona region comprises Maricopa, Pinal, and Gila counties. In 1993, the total population of the Central Arizona region was 2,278,696. Of all Central region residents, 93% lived in Maricopa County, 5% in Pinal County, and 2% in Gila County.
(Source: Bureau of the Census)

❐ Proportion of area's population represented by region

Example:

The Central Arizona region represents 62% of Arizona's total population.
(Source: Bureau of the Census)

❐ Racial/ethnic composition (percentage distribution) of region's population *(Example: Table 1.1.1)*

Comment:

An effort should be made to further characterize by origin the Hispanic population (e.g., Central or South American, Puerto Rican, Cuban, Mexican) and the Asian/Pacific Islander population (e.g., Chinese, Filipino, Japanese, Korean, Pacific Islander). For areas with large Native American populations, tribal affiliation should be described.

Example:

Table 1.1.1 Racial/ethnic composition of the population in San Francisco, California, 1990

Race/Ethnicity	% of Population (N=728,000)
White (non-Hispanic)	46.8
African-American (non-Hispanic)	10.6
Asian/Pacific Islander	28.7
Chinese	18.0
Filipino	6.0
Japanese	2.0
Southeast Asian	2.0
Korean	1.0
Pacific Islander	0.4
Other	0.4
Hispanic/Latino	13.3
Native American/Alaska Native	0.4

(Source: San Francisco Department of Public Health)

QUESTION 1

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❑ **Proportion of region's population who are unemployed and living below the poverty level, by race/ethnicity** *(Example: Table 1.1.2)*

Example:

Table 1.1.2 Percentage distribution of the Central Arizona region's population by race/ethnicity, unemployment, and poverty, compared with that of Arizona and the United States, 1990

Race/Ethnicity	Civilian Labor Force, % Unemployed			% Living Below Poverty		
	Central Arizona	Arizona	U.S.	Central Arizona	Arizona	U.S.
White	5.4	4.6	4.6	9.9	6.3	7.9
African American	12.3	12.0	12.9	27.9	27.5	29.4
Native American	17.2	22.9	14.4	40.7	49.2	30.9
Asian/Pacific Islander	6.0	6.5	5.3	14.7	16.1	14.1
Hispanic Origin[1]	9.3	10.9	10.4	27.6	28.3	25.3
Total	6.2	6.8	6.1	13.0	14.3	12.5

[1]Persons of any race can be of Hispanic origin. Racial/ethnic groups are not mutually exclusive categories.

(Source: Arizona Department of Economic Security; Bureau of the Census)

Population statistics on unemployment and poverty among different racial/ethnic groups are widely disparate. Compared with whites, a much higher proportion of African Americans, Native Americans, and persons of Hispanic origin were unemployed and lived below the poverty level. The proportion of the population that was unemployed or living below the poverty level in the Central Arizona region was similar to that in the state of Arizona and the United States for all racial/ethnic groups except Native Americans.

1.2   Briefly summarize key findings from Question 1

In addition to summarizing the key findings from Question 1, note additional data needed to better answer the question.